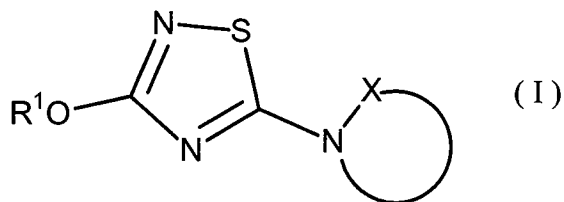


Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please cancel claim 8 and amend claims 5 and 6 without prejudice, as shown in the following listing of all claims ever presented. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims.

1. (Original) A 1,2,4-thiadiazole compound of the formula (I):



wherein R¹ represents C3-C7 alkynyl; X represents C4-C7 straight alkylene optionally substituted with one to four of R², C4-C7 straight alkenylene optionally substituted with one to four of R², ethylene-oxy-ethylene optionally substituted with one to four of R⁴, or ethylene-thio-ethylene optionally substituted with one to four of R⁴; R² represents a halogen atom, trifluoromethyl or C1-C4 alkyl; and R⁴ represents a fluorine atom or C1-C3 alkyl.

2. (Original) The 1,2,4-thiadiazole compound according to claim 1, wherein X is C4-C7 straight alkylene optionally substituted with one to four of R², C4-C7 straight alkenylene optionally substituted with one to four of R², or ethylene-oxy-ethylene optionally substituted with one or two of R⁴; R² is a halogen atom, trifluoromethyl or C1-C4 alkyl; and R⁴ is C1-C3 alkyl.

3. (Original) The 1,2,4-thiadiazole compound according to claim 1, wherein X is C4-C7 straight alkylene optionally substituted with one to four of R²; and R² is a halogen atom, trifluoromethyl or C1-C4 alkyl.

4. (Original) The 1,2,4-thiadiazole compound according to claim 1, wherein X is ethylene-oxy-ethylene optionally substituted with one to four of R⁴; and R⁴ is C1-C4 alkyl.

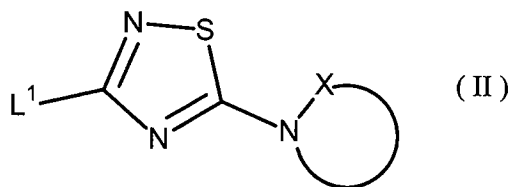
5. (Currently Amended) The 1,2,4-thiadiazole compound according to ~~any of claim 1 to 4~~, wherein R¹ is 2-propynyl, 2-butynyl, 1-methyl-2-butynyl, 2-pentynyl, 4,4-dimethyl-2-pentynyl, 1-methyl-2-propynyl or ~~and~~ 1,1-dimethyl-2-propynyl.

6. (Currently Amended) A pests controlling composition containing an effective amount of the 1,2,4-thiadiazole compound according to claim 1 as an ~~effective amount of~~ active ingredient and a carrier.

7. (Original) A method for controlling pests comprising applying an effective amount of the 1,2,4-thiadiazole compound according to claim 1 to pests or habitat of pests.

8. (Cancelled) Use of the 1,2,4-thiadiazole compound according to claim 1 as an active ingredient for a pests controlling composition.

9. (Original) A 1,2,4-thiadiazole compound of the formula (II):



wherein L¹ represents methylsulfinyl or methylsulfonyl; X represents C4-C7 straight alkylene optionally substituted with one to four of R², C4-C7 straight alkenylene optionally substituted with one to four of R², ethylene-oxy-ethylene optionally substituted with one to four of R⁴, or ethylene-thio-ethylene optionally substituted with one to four of R⁴; R² represents a halogen atom, trifluoromethyl or C1-C4 alkyl; and R⁴ represents a fluorine atom or C1-C3 alkyl.

10. (Original) The 1,2,4-thiadiazole compound according to claim 9, wherein X is C4-C7 straight alkylene optionally substituted with one to four of R², C4-C7 straight alkenylene optionally substituted with one to four of R², or ethylene-oxy-ethylene optionally substituted with one or two of R⁴; R² is a halogen atom, trifluoromethyl or C1-C4 alkyl; and R⁴ is C1-C3 alkyl.